



# Delaware Nutrient Management



## The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission Minutes of the Technology Meeting Held December 12, 2006

### In attendance:

<i>Committee Members Present</i>	<i>Others Present</i>
T. Keen, Chair	G. Binford
R. Baldwin	M. Brown
K. Blessing	B. Coleman
J. Manchester	P. Diehl
R. Sterling	K. Foskey
B. Vanderwende	S. Hollenbeck
	C. Larimore
<i>Committee Members Absent</i>	B. O'Neill
C. West	D. Raghunandan
	P. Sample
<i>Ex-Officios Present</i>	
W. Rohrer, Jr.	

*This meeting was not properly notified and posted as required by law.  
12/12/06 meeting was called on 12/05/06, making notice too short for required posting.*

### Call to Order/Welcome:

Chairman T. Keen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

### Approval of Minutes:

**J. Manchester** motioned to approve the December 5, 2006 Technology meeting minutes. Motion seconded by **R. Sterling**, and passed unanimously.

### Discussion and Action Items:

#### *Nitrogen Management Discussion:*

T. Keen turned the meeting over to J. Manchester, who led a discussion dealing with Nitrogen Management. He acknowledged that Delaware has made some progress in this area since the inception of the DNMC, but not enough. He stressed the need for the Commission to focus on those areas with the highest concentration of nitrates in waterways. He suggested that DNMC staff compile data obtained from DNREC and the Office of Drinking Water to identify those areas. He felt that economic incentives would be the best way to begin to curtail nitrogen overload, but that statewide regulation would be inevitable.

He stressed a need to bring the matter before the Full Commission in order to focus efforts on a few drainage basins. He explained that 3 methods could be used to encourage/discourage: 1) regulations; 2) incentives; 3) education.

A general discussion followed with Commissioners pointing out that today there are better drought-resistant varieties of corn, better field irrigation, etc.; we (the Commission) are headed in the right direction.

B. Rohrer posed the question... How do you envision this data would be used? J. Manchester replied that economic incentives could be provided to assist with implementation of irrigation; assistance could also be given to supply labor for the purpose of taking soil samples; education could be planned to increase awareness of nitrate levels, which would help the agricultural community to make sound decisions.

Further discussion followed regarding subsidized cover crops. It was pointed out that this program is already over-subscribed and simply adding a bonus program would not be an easy task. The pros and cons of no-till crops were also talked about.

K. Blessing mentioned that nitrate regulations would be easier to mandate if merit studies were offered as proof of need. J. Manchester stated that we cannot wait 3-5 years for research. T. Keen pointed out that we are still in the learning stages of nutrient and nitrate control, and that there has been a lot of improvement in the amounts of nitrates being applied.

T. Keen stated that he would report to the Full Commission at the next meeting.

**Public Comments:** NONE

**Next Meeting:** NONE

**Adjournment:** Chairman Keen adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Approved,

Tony Keen, Chair  
Technology Subcommittee

BRR/psd